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CHINA

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Bishop Bashford on China



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IF we are to turn our attention to one part of that humanity for whose redemption Christ died, the crisis which now confronts the church is not in America but in China. In this empire 400,000,000 people are to emerge from an ancient to a modern civilization within the twentieth century. Two or three generations ago we might well have said: "Civilization always moves

from the east to the west; we have no precedent for believing that the Orient will be transformed by the Occident. But 300,000,000 in India are being influenced to some extent by England; while under the more favorable conditions of race and national autonomy 50,000,000 in Japan have emerged into modern civilization with marvelous strides and infinite gain to themselves and to the Orient.

As surely as the tiny stalk of the sprouting seed seeks the sunlight, so surely will the toiling millions of China begin to turn toward the light and warmth which they feel about them. As surely as the sun draws toward itself the springing blade of grass in its struggle after life, so surely will the Sun of Righteousness draw toward himself the struggling aspirations of the millions of the Orient. Notice some

of the methods by which a nation shall be born in a day.

First, despite the opposition of conservatism and superstition, railroads will be built in China within the next few years. The great plain of China has the richest soil and the densest population of any section of equal size upon our globe. At the low wages of ten cents per day it still costs from twenty to forty times as much to transport grain and coal in China as the freight rates in the Mississippi valley. With people and products already there and such profits in view, it does not require so much foresight to foretell the growth of railroads in the plain of China as was required fifty years ago to foresee the industrial development of the Mississippi valley.

Second, the coal and iron supplies of the future are in the Chinese

empire. Baron Richtofen, of Germany, the world's expert on coal lands, says that from twelve to fifteen of the eighteen provinces of China are underlaid to a greater or less extent with coal and iron, and that the single province of Shansi alone has enough coal to supply the world at its present rate of consumption for 4,000 years! It does not require as much foresight to foresee the development of these immense resources in the twentieth century as was required forty years ago to see the growth of iron and cotton industries in Alabama and Tennessee.

Third, China has the largest supply of the cheapest and the best labor of any nation on earth. The same energy and foresight which brought the Roosevelts and Astors and Carnegies from Europe to America will lead their descendants

to the undeveloped and almost undreamed-of resources of China; and the yellow race, under the guidance of Americans, is destined to play no mean part in shaping the civilization of the Pacific Basin in the twentieth century.

The same appeal to enterprise and heroism and faith applies with increasing force to the church in the crisis which confronts her. One fourth of the human race is to emerge into modern civilization during the twentieth century. Shall that civilization be set in Christian molds? The opportunity which confronts the church in the Orient is equaled only by the opportunity which faced her at the Reformation; nay, the crisis reminds one rather of the crisis which confronted the race on the coming of Christ to earth. Counting the ministers and teachers and physicians

there is one worker for the advancement of civilization in the United States to-day for every two hundred of the people. Counting the same factors there is one worker for the advancement of the kingdom in China to-day for every one hundred and thirty thousand of the population. Where can you probably make your life count most for the kingdom? Where do you think Paul would labor were he to return to the earth? I am sorry not all of you can come to China. But with \$30 keeping a Chinese scholar in a Christian school for a year, and \$50 supporting a Chinese woman as a Bible reader for a year, and with \$200 sustaining a Chinese preacher for a year, and \$250,000 founding a Christian college of applied science in China for all time to come, there is an opportunity for each of us to become a worker

together with God for the evangelization of the world in the twentieth century.

Personally we may be driven back to America because we failed to go early enough in life to master the language, but we would rather live for a quarter of the twentieth century in China than a quarter of a millennium in any other land or any other period of the world's history.